(i) laying down of quality standards for kind or variety of silk-worm seed;

(ii) authorization of silk-worm races and hybrids for commercial exploitation;

(iii) laying down of quality standards for production of silk-worm seeds;

(iv) laying down the conditions and requirements that have to be met out by the persons desirous of setting up of facilities for production of silk-worm seeds of grainage;

(v) laying down the certification and silk-worm seed testing procedures for seeds sold by the registered producers;

(vi) undertaking the registration of silk-worm seed producers and dealers and controlling, supervising the inspection process to ensure adherence to the specified quality standards and seed certification requirements;

(vii) laying down the conditions and standards for export and import of silk-worm seed and adherence to them;

(viii) programming and planning of silk-worm seed production;

(ix) advising the Central Government and the State Governments on the matters aforesaid; and

(x) such other matters connected and incidental to the production, supply, distribution, trade and commerce in silk-worm seed, as may be specified by regulations made by the Committee from time to time.

(c) and (d) The Government of India gives due weightage to all silk producing States by providing funds through schemes such as Catalytic Development Programme which is being implemented since Eleventh Plan onwards and to be continued in Eleventh Plan with an objective of dissemination and promotion of new technologies developed by research institutes and development of sericulture through facilitating linkages amongst stake holders and strengthening the supply chain for silk production.

Textile exporters hit by rupee appreciation

1827. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that textile exporters, who have been hit by recent rupee appreciation, requested Government for reimbursement of State and local level duties;

(b) if so, the details of representation so made; and

(c) what decision has been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) The Government has received representations from

various associations in the textiles industry seeking relief including reimbursement of State and local land duties, on account of the appreciation of the rupee.

(c) Government has announced an export package comprising several relief measures, including revision. in the Duty Drawback and DEPB rates, which will benefit the textiles sector. DEPB rates have been enhanced by 3% for nine sectors which include Textiles (including handlooms), readymade garments, and handicrafts. In addition, the premium on export credit guarantee has been reduced by ten per cent, the rates of duty drawback have been enhanced, and the rate of interest on pre-shipment and, post-shipment credit has been reduced by two per cent.

Role of textile industry in Indian economy

1828. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the textile industry is set to play a major role in the Indian economy;

(b) if so, whether India had natural advantages in the whole of the value chain of the sector and it had strong material base of cotton, manmade fibres, jute, and silk;

(c) whether its production capacity, both in spinning and weaving, was large and had a vast pool of skilled manpower with excellent entrepreneurial abilities; and

(d) if so, whether Government are extending support to the sector by special schemes such as the Technology Upgradation Fund and Integrated Textile Parks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED AND UNSTARRED QUESTIONS SET FOR THE 27TH AUGUST, 2007*

Achievement levels of KV students

*201. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan has conducted any survey of the achievement levels of its students in English, Maths, Science and SST for classes VII and VIII;

(b) if so, the results thereof and the steps taken to further augment the achievement levels;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

* The sitting of the Rajya Sabha on Monday, the 27th August, 2007 was cancelled. Answers to Questions put down in the lists for that day were laid on the Table of the House on Wednesday, the 29th August, 2007.